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For Immediate Release

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REPEAT ARMED CAREER CRIMINAL SENTENCED TO LIFE IN PRISON WITHOUT PAROLE

PHILADELPHIA - U.S. Attorney Pat Meehan announced the sentencing today of defendant Gregory Robinson, 59, of Philadelphia. United States District Judge Michael M. Baylson sentenced Robinson to lifetime imprisonment plus 84 months for an October 18th conviction of interference with interstate commerce by robbery, possession and use of a firearm during and in relation to a crime of violence, and being an armed career criminal in possession of a firearm.

On April 20, 2006, Robinson entered Wishing Well Market in the West Philadelphia section of Philadelphia and robbed the store at gunpoint. During the commission of the robbery and subsequent flight, Robinson repeatedly aimed at, shot at, and attempted to kill four police officers at close range, including a police lieutenant. When the police lieutenant slipped and fell to the ground during the pursuit, Robinson stopped running, turned around, approached the lieutenant, and shot at the lieutenant two more times while standing only feet away in an attempt to kill him. Fortunately, no officer was wounded or killed. Robinson was subsequently wounded by another officer while trying to escape.

"Criminals who attempt to kill police officers are among the most dangerous people in our community, if only for their depraved indifference for authority," said Meehan. "This defendant's life story is filled with criminal, violent, desperate acts. The life sentence ensures that he cannot claim additional victims."

Because of the defendant's numerous prior violent felony convictions, including third-degree murder, he was sentenced to lifetime imprisonment. His other prior convictions include a conviction for assault and battery; aggravated assault and battery; assault with intent to maim; mayhem; and assault and battery with intent to murder; possession of an instrument of crime; resisting arrest; and robbery.

Under Title 18, United States Code, Section 3559(c), the district court judge was required to sentence Robinson to mandatory life imprisonment for having been previously convicted of two or more serious violent felonies. Under federal law, Robinson was also classified an armed career criminal.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Salvatore L. Astolfi, with assistance from Alexander T.H. Nguyen; it was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the Philadelphia Police Department.

This case is part of Project Safe Neighborhoods, a federal initiative designed to identify and prosecute firearms offenders in federal court, where the defendant is likely to receive a substantial sentence upon conviction. As an extension of Project Safe Neighborhoods, the United States Attorney's Office, FBI, ATF, Philadelphia Police Department, and other law enforcement agencies have established the *Hobbs Act Robbery Task Force* to investigate and prosecute organized gangs and groups committing commercial armed robberies in this district.

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